**History of HTML – Richard Clare GG**

**Intro**

Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) is a coding language for displaying web pages for browsers. It has been around since 1993. HTML pages have tags like <p> for paragraph and <img> for image using images on the page. They are usually closed by a backslash e.g. </p> These tags are used by the browser to interpret the contents of the page.

HTML uses CSS (Cascading Stylesheets) to control the look of the page. This includes font color, background color and putting content into forms and laying it out on the page. W3 schools have a big stylesheet that you can use. HTML can also link to a JavaScript page, that allows it to use simple programs to take input from the user, work on it and display an output back to the user.

Putting it all together can allow you to make complex pages with different elements.

**History**

The first version of the Internet was developed by the US military in the 60s. It was designed as a way that different missile bases like NORAD could stay in contact even if the telephone network were to be destroyed in a nuclear attack. This early internet was called ARPANET which stood for Advanced Research Projects Agency Network.

By the 70s Universities like MIT had their own internal internets(intranet) that could be used to send emails between departments and by the 80s big companies had started getting involved. It wasn’t until the late eighties that the Internet started to take the shape we would recognize, thanks in large part to an invention called hyperlinks.

Tim-Berners Lee was a physicist who worked at CERN, the European centre for Nuclear research. He is credited as one of the primary inventors of hyperlinks. He proposed the idea of HTML in 1989 in a memo called “Information Management: A Proposal”.

<https://www.w3.org/History/1989/proposal.html>

There were issues tracking information for such a massive project as the Large Hadron Collider. Thousands of people worked at CERN and there was high turnover of staff. The main way of getting information was to talk to people but sometimes you could not find the right person or they had already left the organization.

It was obviously impractical, he said, to have a big book with the information, so new solutions would have to be found. He proposed a big inter-connected information system that would be linked together like a web (!) and could be updated by people. To quote him directly: “*This is why a "web" of notes with links (like references) between them is far more useful than a fixed hierarchical system.”*

**Today**

HTML has had many versions and today we are on version 5. The original version had only 18 elements and the newest has more than 110 tags for displaying different kinds of content. It added the <video>, <audio> elements. HTML 5 supports video and audio whereas the original HTML did not. HTML is designed to be futureproof so is the language we will be using going forward on the web.